

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A flushing device having a proximal end and a distal end utilized to flush a catheter, the flushing device comprising:

a receptacle for holding a flushing medium;

a mechanism for expelling the flushing medium from the receptacle;

a flushing tip positioned at the distal end of the flushing device, the flushing tip having a distal end, a proximal end and a tapered inner contact surface aligned to be contacted by a catheter to be flushed, wherein an inner diameter of the distal end of the flushing tip is larger than a diameter of the catheter to be flushed and an inner diameter of the proximal end is smaller than the diameter of the catheter to be flushed such that when a tip of the catheter contacts a portion of the tapered inner contact surface the catheter tip is moved relative to the inner contact surface to align the catheter tip into desired engagement with an internal diameter of the contact surface and the catheter tip is circumscribed by an outer rim of the flushing tip, and wherein the distance between the flushing tip and the mechanism for expelling the flushing medium is less than 4.25 inches when the mechanism for expelling the flushing medium is in an extended position; and

one or more gripping portions positioned distally from a middle portion of the receptacle.

2. (Original) The flushing device of claim 1, wherein the receptacle for holding a flushing medium comprises barrel.

3. (Original) The flushing device of claim 1, wherein the mechanism for expelling the flushing medium comprises a plunger.

4. (Original) The flushing device of claim 1, wherein the receptacle for holding a flushing medium comprises a barrel and the mechanism for expelling the flushing medium comprises a plunger, and wherein the plunger is disposed within the barrel.

5. (Currently amended) The flushing device of claim [[1]] 4, wherein the user depresses the plunger to expel flushing medium from the barrel.

6. (Original) The flushing device of claim 1, wherein the flushing tip comprises a receiving tip.

7. (Original) The flushing device of claim 1, wherein the receptacle for holding a flushing medium comprises a bulb.

8. (Original) The flushing device of claim 1, wherein the receptacle for holding a flushing medium and the mechanism for expelling the flushing medium comprises a single compressible bulb.

9. (Original) The flushing device of claim 1, wherein the one or more gripping portions comprise one or more finger grips.

10. (Currently amended) A flushing device having one handed operability, the flushing device comprising:

a barrel for holding a flushing medium;

a plunger for expelling the flushing medium from the receptacle, the plunger being configured such that a user can actuate the plunger with the user's palm;

a receiving tip positioned at a distal end of the flushing device, the receiving tip having a distal end, a proximal end and a tapered inner contact surface aligned to be contacted by a catheter to be flushed, wherein an inner diameter of the distal end of the receiving tip is larger than a diameter of the catheter to be flushed and an inner diameter of the proximal end is smaller than the diameter of the catheter to be flushed such that when a tip of the catheter contacts a portion of the tapered inner contact surface the catheter tip is moved relative to the inner contact surface to align the catheter tip into desired engagement with an internal diameter of the contact surface and the catheter tip is circumscribed by an outer rim of the receiving tip, and wherein the distance between the receiving tip and a proximal end of the plunger is less than 4.25 inches when the plunger is in an extended position; and

one or more finger grips for allowing the user to control movement of receiving tip while compressing the plunger, the one or more finger grips positioned distally from a middle portion of the receptacle barrel.

11. (Original) The flushing device of claim 10, wherein the finger grips are positioned adjacent the receiving tip.

12. (Original) The flushing device of claim 10, wherein the finger grips are positioned laterally on opposite sides of the flushing device.

13. (Original) The flushing device of claim 10, wherein the finger grips comprise projections which extend from lateral sides of the barrel.

14. (Original) The flushing device of claim 10, wherein the finger grips comprise circular rings.

15. (Original) The flushing device of claim 14, wherein the circular rings extend from the lateral sides of the flushing device allowing a user to insert the user's fingers therethrough.

16. (Original) The flushing device of claim 15, wherein the finger grips comprise anti-skid members.

17. (Original) The flushing device of claim 16, wherein the finger grips allow the user to control the flushing device using a single hand.

18. (Withdrawn) A flushing device comprising:
a barrel for holding a flushing medium;
a plunger for expelling the flushing medium from the receptacle; and
a receiving tip having a distal end and a proximal end, wherein the inner diameter of the distal end is larger than the inner diameter of the proximal end, and wherein the receiving tip is integrally coupled to the other components of the flushing device.
19. (Withdrawn) The flushing device of claim 18, wherein the receiving tip is utilized to flush the lumen of catheter.
20. (Withdrawn) The flushing device of claim 18, wherein the receiving tip is conical.
21. (Withdrawn) The flushing device of claim 18, wherein the receiving tip is tapered.
22. (Withdrawn) The flushing device of claim 21, wherein the tapered configuration of the receiving tip allows for a fluid tight connection with the tip of a catheter.

23. (Withdrawn) The flushing device of claim 21, wherein the tapered configuration of the receiving tip allows the catheter to be utilized with a catheter having a large diameter.

24. (Withdrawn) The flushing device of claim 21, wherein the tapered configuration of the receiving tip allows the catheter to be utilized with catheters having a plurality of diameters.

25. (Withdrawn) The flushing device of claim 18, wherein the receiving tip is integrally coupled to the other components of the flushing device.

26. (Withdrawn) The flushing device of claim 18, wherein the receiving tip is removably coupled to the other components of the flushing device.

27. (Currently amended) A flushing device having one handed operability, the flushing device comprising:

a barrel for holding a flushing medium;

a plunger for expelling the flushing medium from the ~~receptacle barrel~~, the plunger being configured such that a user can actuate the plunger with the user's palm;

a receiving tip having a distal end ~~and~~ a proximal end and a tapered inner contact surface aligned to be contacted by a catheter to be flushed, wherein the inner diameter of the distal end is larger than the inner diameter of the proximal end, such that the inner diameter of the distal end is larger than the diameter of the catheter to be flushed and the proximal end is smaller than the diameter of the catheter to be flushed such that when a tip of the catheter contacts a portion of the tapered inner contact surface the catheter tip is moved relative to the inner contact surface to align the catheter tip into desired engagement with an internal diameter of the contact surface and the catheter tip is circumscribed by an outer rim of the receiving tip, and wherein the receiving tip is integrally coupled to the other components of the flushing device; and

one or more finger grips positioned between a middle portion of the barrel and the receiving tip, the finger grips extending from lateral sides of the flushing device,

wherein the length of the barrel allows a user to operate the flushing device using a single hand.

28. (Original) The flushing device of claim 27, wherein the one or more finger grips are positioned adjacent the receiving tip.

29. (Original) The flushing device of claim 27, wherein the plunger is configured such that a user can actuate the plunger with the user's thumb.

30. (Original) The flushing device of claim 27, wherein the one or more finger grips comprise two finger grips positioned on opposite sides of the barrel.

31. (Currently amended) A flushing device having one handed operability, the flushing device comprising:

a barrel for holding a flushing medium;

a plunger having a palm press member for expelling the flushing medium from the receptacle, the plunger being configured such that a user can actuate the plunger with the user's palm;

a receiving tip having a distal end, ~~[[and]]~~ a proximal end and a tapered inner contact surface aligned to be contacted by a catheter to be flushed, wherein an inner diameter of the distal end is larger than a diameter of the catheter to be flushed and an inner diameter of the proximal end is smaller than the diameter of the catheter to be flushed such that when a tip of the catheter contacts a portion of the tapered inner contact surface the catheter tip is moved relative to the inner contact surface to align the catheter tip into desired engagement with an internal diameter of the contact surface and the catheter tip is circumscribed by an outer rim of the receiving tip; and

one or more finger grips positioned between a middle portion of the barrel and the receiving tip,

wherein the distance between the receiving tip and the palm press member is less than 4.25 inches when the plunger is in an extended position.

32. (Original) The flushing device of claim 31, wherein the distance between the receiving tip and the palm press member is less than 4 inches when the plunger is in an extended position.

33. (Original) The flushing device of claim 31, wherein the distance between the receiving tip and the palm press member is about 3.5 inches when the plunger is in an extended position.

34. (Original) The flushing device of claim 31, wherein the distance between the receiving tip and the palm press member is less than 4 inches when the plunger is in a depressed position.

35. (Original) The flushing device of claim 31, wherein the distance between the receiving tip and the palm press member is less than 3 inches when the plunger is in a depressed position.

36. (Original) The flushing device of claim 33, wherein the distance between the receiving tip and the palm press member is about 2.7 inches when the plunger is in a depressed position.

37. (Currently amended) A flushing device having one handed operability, the flushing device comprising:

a barrel for holding a flushing medium;

a plunger having a palm press member for expelling the flushing medium from the receptacle, the plunger being configured such that a user can actuate the plunger with the user's palm;

a receiving tip having a distal end, ~~[[and]]~~ a proximal end and a tapered inner contact surface aligned to be contacted by a catheter to be flushed, wherein an inner diameter of the distal end is larger than a diameter of the catheter to be flushed and an inner diameter of the proximal end is smaller than the diameter of the catheter to be flushed such that when a tip of the catheter contacts a portion of the tapered inner contact surface the catheter tip is moved relative to the inner contact surface to align the catheter tip into desired engagement with an internal diameter of the contact surface and the catheter tip is circumscribed by an outer rim of the receiving tip; and

one or more finger grips positioned between a middle portion of the barrel and the receiving tip, wherein the distance between the receiving tip and the palm press member is less than 3 inches when the plunger is in a depressed position.

38. (Currently amended) A flushing device having one handed operability, the flushing device comprising:

a barrel for holding a flushing medium;

a plunger having a palm press member for expelling the flushing medium from the receptacle, the plunger being configured such that a user can actuate the plunger with the user's palm;

a receiving tip having a distal end ~~and~~ a proximal end and a tapered inner contact surface aligned to be contacted by a catheter to be flushed, wherein an inner diameter of the distal end is larger than a diameter of the catheter to be flushed and an inner diameter of the proximal end is smaller than the diameter of the catheter to be flushed such that when a tip of the catheter contacts a portion of the tapered inner contact surface the catheter tip is moved relative to the inner contact surface to align the catheter tip into desired engagement with an internal diameter of the contact surface and the catheter tip is circumscribed by an outer rim of the receiving tip; and

one or more finger grips positioned between a middle portion of the barrel and the receiving tip, wherein the distance between the one or more finger grips and the palm press member is less than 3 inches when the plunger is in an extended position.

39. (Original) The flushing device of claim 38, wherein the distance between the finger grips and the palm press member is about 2.3 inches when the plunger is in an extended position.

40. (Withdrawn) A flushing device comprising:
a barrel for holding a flushing medium;
a plunger for expelling the flushing medium from the receptacle; and
a receiving tip for receiving a catheter to be flushed, wherein at least a portion of the receiving tip is non-opaque allowing a user to view a catheter tip positioned therein.

41. (Withdrawn) The flushing device of claim 40, wherein the receiving tip is integrally coupled to the other components of the flushing device.

42. (Currently amended) A flushing device, the flushing device comprising:

a barrel for holding a flushing medium;

a plunger for expelling the flushing medium from the receptacle, the plunger being configured such that a user can actuate the plunger with the user's palm;

a receiving tip positioned at a distal end of the flushing device, the receiving tip having a distal end, a proximal end and a tapered inner contact surface aligned to be contacted by the catheter to be flushed, wherein an inner diameter of the distal end of the receiving tip is larger than a diameter of the catheter to be flushed and an inner diameter of the proximal end is smaller than the diameter of the catheter to be flushed such that when a tip of the catheter contacts a portion of the tapered inner contact surface the inner contact surface causes the catheter tip to move relative to the inner contact surface to align the catheter tip into desired engagement with an internal diameter of the contact surface and the catheter tip is circumscribed by an outer rim of the receiving tip, wherein the distance between the receiving tip and the plunger is less than 4.25 inches when the plunger is in an extended position; and

one or more finger grips positioned between a middle portion of the barrel and the receiving tip, wherein the length of the barrel allows a user to operate the flushing device using a single hand.